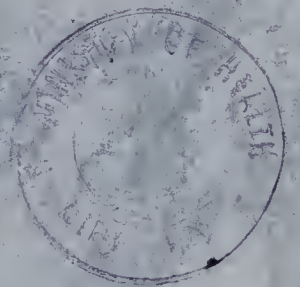


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The Urban District of Kirkham



Annual Health Report for the Year 1959



Medical Officer of Health:

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.(Edin.)

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., L.I.O.B.
and R. B. HALL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor T. A. Ruxton (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. D. G. M. Sanderson
Councillor T. Ward, J.P.
Councillor J. Whiteside
Councillor O. Aiken
Councillor R. Lavelle
Councillor R. Salisbury
Councillor H. Jones, J.P.
Councillor J. Whiteside (Woodlands)

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., L.I.O.B.
1/1/59—17/10/59

R B. HALL
9/11/59—31/11/59

Clerk: N. Swift, A.C.C.S.

Pupil Public Health Inspector: B. D. Rogerson

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Annual Health Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1959.

Again the general health of the Urban District has been satisfactory, forty cases of Measles presenting the only double figure incidence of a disease among a total of only 53 notified cases of infectious illness. There were 175 cases of Measles in 1958.

Both the birth rate and the death rate showed a slight rise in 1959; there were no deaths of mothers in childbirth.

The rise in the infant mortality rate from Nil to 72.5 looks alarming on the face of things, but where small figures are involved, which have to be raised to the "per thousand" rate, a single extra infant death can create quite a jump in the "per thousand" figure. In terms of infant deaths there were none in 1958 and five in 1959. Examining the causes of death in these five cases there was:

- 1 death aged 6 months—Bronchopneumonia following an anaesthetic.
- 1 death aged 6 months—Acute Nephritis and Uraemia.
- 1 death aged 1 week — Peritonitis and Volvulus (Twisted Bowel).
- 1 death aged 6 days—Prematurity and Kernicterus (a severe form of jaundice in the new born).
- 1 death aged 2 days—Haemorrhage in the Brain.

The last three all died within the first week of life from conditions over which there could be little control.

I was sorry to lose the services of Mr. Riddiough in the Department on his departure for East Africa, but glad to welcome his successor, Mr. Hall. To him and the other members of the Health Department Staff I would tender sincere thanks for

the happy co-operation which exists. Also to you, Mr. Chairman, the Clerk of the Council, and the Members of the Health Committee for your interest.

Yours faithfully'

C. ROBERTSON WILSON.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population	4,660
(at the 1951 census the population was 6,874 The home population in 1958 was 4,830).	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/59	1,497
Rateable value at 31/12/59	£50,952
Amount produced by a penny rate	£203

VITAL STATISTICS

Births—69 live births (37 males and 32 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 13.6 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 12.8 per 1,000 in 1958. Illegitimate live births totalled 1.45% of total live births.

Stillbirths—There was 1 stillbirth during the year making a stillbirth rate of 14.3 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 15.2 in 1958.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 70.

Deaths—57 deaths (34 males and 23 females) were registered during the year. The death rate at 13.3 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 12.9 per 1,000 in 1958.

Infantile Mortality—5 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 0 in 1958.

The total infantile mortality rate was 72.5 per 1,000 total live births.

The legitimate infantile mortality rate was 44.1 per 1,000 legitimate live births.

The illegitimate infantile mortality rate was 1,000 per 1,000 illegitimate live births.

The neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) was 43.5.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was 29.0.

The perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births) was 42.9.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—Number of deaths 0. Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 0.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1959.

Cause of death	M	F	T
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	2	4	6
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	—	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	7	3	10
Hypertension, with heart disease	2	—	2
Other heart disease	1	3	4
Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
Influenza	2	—	2
Pneumonia	2	—	2
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	2
Congenital malformations	1	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	2	10
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	34	23	57
	—	—	—

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years:

Year	England and Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1955	15.0	11.7	11.8	11.4
1956	15.7	11.7	15.7	11.0
1957	16.1	11.5	18.0	14.0
1958	16.4	11.7	12.8	12.9
1959	16.5	11.6	13.6	13.3

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:—

Medical Officer of Health:

C. ROBERTSON WILSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Other appointments held : Medical Officer of Health Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

E. RIDDIOUGH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., L.I.O.B.
1/1/59—17/10/59.

R. B. HALL, 9/11/59—31/12/59.

Hospital Facilities—For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities—The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles from the Wesham Ambulance Station.

Laboratory Facilities—Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in laboratories at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary. The latter laboratory is also used for the examination of water and milk supplies.

Professional Nursing in the Home—General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

Venereal Disease Service—Facilities for treatment of Venereal Disease are available at Blackpool Victoria Hospital and Preston Royal Infirmary.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics—A County Council Clinic is located in Station Road and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows:

Monday, a.m.—Minor Ailments Clinic.

Monday, a.m. and p.m.—Speech Therapy

Tuesday, p.m.—Audiometric (alternate Tuesdays).

Wednesday, p.m.—Chiropody.

Thursday, a.m.—Immunisation (third Thursday in each month).

Thursday, a.m.—Minor Ailments.

Thursday, a.m.—Vaccination (third Thursday in each month).

Thursday, p.m.—Child Welfare Clinic.

Friday, p.m.—Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the numbers of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1959.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified												
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year											
		1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 and over	Age unknown	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	3				1	2							
Whooping Cough	4	1			1	1	1						
Acute Poliomyelitis — Paralytic													
„ Non-Paralytic ...													
Measles (excluding Rubella)	40	2	7	9	5	4	10	2	1				
Diphtheria													
Dysentery	3		1		1			1					
Meningococcal Infection ...													
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...													
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl'zal) ...													2
Smallpox													
Acute Encephalitis—Infec- tive													
„ Post-Infectious													
Enteric or Typhoid Fever ...													
Paratyphoid Fevers													
Erysipelas													
Food Poisoning													
Puerperal Pyrexia	3								1	2			
Other notifiable diseases ...													
TOTAL	53	3	8	9	8	5	13	3	2	2	0	0	2

TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

New Cases and Mortality during 1959.

		—New Cases—				——Deaths——			
		Non-Pulmon'y		Non-Pulmon'y		Non-Pulmon'y		Non-Pulmon'y	
Age	Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—	25	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25—	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—	55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55—	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		1		0		0		0	

In 1958 there was 1 new case notified, and 0 deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health
Committee, Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first annual report on the work done in the Public Health Department during 1959.

For much of the year under review Mr. Riddiough was in office, and I only came into the picture in the last eight weeks of the year.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The following are the numbers of closets, ashpits, dustbins, etc.

Water Closets	1,600
Waste Water Closets	2
Pail Closets	1
Privy Closets	0
Privy Ashpits	0
Dry Ashpits	0
Dustbins	1,600
Cesspools	0
Septic Tanks	15
Houses not connected directly to sewer	33
Houses on Water Carriage System	1,496
Percentage of Closets on Water Carriage System	99.99
Percentage of Houses connected to General Sewage System	97.79

Sewers and Sewerage System — The sewerage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs to tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewerage disposal works consists of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks and fourteen sludge beds. These were constructed in 1941.

The responsibility for the main sewer and sewerage works is held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

Forty five new houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Rivers and Streams—One main stream—Wrongway Brook—runs through the district, entering from the Fylde Rural District in a culvert under the railway and discharging into Carr Brook and finally into Dow Brook. This stream forms a portion of the Urban District boundary on the easterly side of the town, and provides most of the natural drainage for the district.

A second stream, commencing at the Bye-Pass end of Orders Lane, runs down Orders Lane, under Poulton Street and Mill Street in a brick culvert, and discharges into Carr Brook at the north-easterly corner of the Flax Mill land.

Water Supply—Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. No complaints were received concerning the water supply.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Complaints Received—267 complaints were received during the year, of which many were from Council houses for repairs requiring attention. 1,289 visits were made to premises in connection with this work. 267 nuisances were discovered, of which 250 were abated, leaving 17 to carry forward to 1960. 23 informal notices were served during the year, whilst the number of statutory notices served after reports being made to the Committee was 11. In the main most complaints were dealt with after consultation with the landlord concerned. In spite of the high cost of maintenance and low rentals, property is reasonably well maintained. In most cases the tenants are reasonable and do most internal repairs themselves. Advantage is being taken to improve old property under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act.

DISINFESTATIONS

One house was disinfested during 1959. The methods of treatment are by D.D.T. spray and/or D.D.T. or similar type of smoke generator. In the case of bugs a combination of the two methods—spraying first, followed by smoke generators—has proved most effective. Free issues of insect powder are available, and no charge is made for disinfestation in the area of private dwelling houses.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Four houses were visited for investigation in connection with infectious diseases and instructions were given and disinfectant supplied to the householders for disinfection of premises. There was no other demand for disinfection. Library books were collected from houses where infectious diseases occurred and were disinfected before return to the Library.

SCHOOLS

The schools were inspected on occasion and were satisfactory apart from minor repairs. All are supplied with water by the Fylde Water Board and all have water closets connected to the

sewer. Under an agreement between the Council and the County Education Committee Mr. Riddiough continued to act as Technical Officer for the Committee for schools in the district but this scheme has now been terminated, the County Council's own staff doing the work.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or offensive trades within the district.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

There was one caravan site in the district during 1959. Legal action was taken in respect of this site as it was being operated without a licence. The Court agreed with the Council and ordered the vans to be removed from the site.

CLEAN AIR ACT

The factories in the district were visited and consultations made with the boilermen in an attempt to improve the smoke nuisance. Some complaints were received from time to time and 5 observations were taken on chimneys. Some improvement was made after informal notifications to the firms concerned. No legal actions were taken.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

During the year no further applications from persons to be registered as Dealers in Old Metals under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, were received.

No certificates in respect of means of escape in case of fire were issued during the year.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council carried out all refuse collection and disposal. They have one modern fore and aft tipper type wagon engaged regularly on this work. A tractor and trailer is used part time on the tip.

Disposal is carried out at Carr Lane tip. The soil is first removed by dragline and then replaced on top as the tip proceeds. Some $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of reclaimed land are let to a farmer and several

successful crops have been grown. The old destructor was retained in use for burning unsound meat, unsalvageable paper and factory wastes.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows:—

4 Ashbinmen	
1 Salvage Baler	Full time.
1 Driver	
1 Tractor Driver—	Part time.

No serious labour difficulties have been met with but as the workmen are becoming older two or three have asked for lighter work. As no lighter work is available this raises some difficulties and, whilst most of the workmen have served the Council for many years, the time may arise when due to illness and only being fit for light work some will have to look elsewhere for work. Sickness absence during the past year was slight but the incidence may rise especially amongst the older men and cannot be overlooked. It is a fallacy to consider any Council work as light work—a popular concept. The lifting of heavy dustbins, kerbs, flags, excavating and gardening are not particularly light work.

Salvage collection was maintained and the bonus scheme for the men continued. All waste paper was sent to Thames Board Mills Ltd., under contract. Loose tins continued to be baled but disposal was difficult and prices were much lower than in previous years.

The total income during the year from the sale of salvage was £1,067.

The tonnage salvaged was as follows:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Waste Paper (all grades)	104 ...	14 ...	1 ...	22
Rags	9 ...	0 ...	1 ...	21
Food Tins	8 ...	6 ...	0 ...	0
Cast Iron, Scrap Metal, etc.	4 ...	2 ...	3 ...	0
	<hr/> 126 ... <hr/>	<hr/> 3 ... <hr/>	<hr/> 2 ... <hr/>	<hr/> 15 <hr/>

The total cost of refuse collection and disposal was £3,916, equal to a 1/7½d. rate.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

Visits were made to premises where foodstuffs were handled or sold.

The number of visits made to food premises during the year, including the slaughterhouse, was 124.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(1) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical power ...	1	—	—
Factories without Mechanical power	—	—	—
Other premises under the Act (including Building and Engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	1	—	—

(2) DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7):—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—

RAG-FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the above Act. Three inspections were made of them during the year. No samples were taken. The amount of this material used is very small.

RODENT CONTROL

Fifteen properties infested by rats or mice were treated during the year by the Rodent Operator. This man has had Ministry training in modern methods and has had much success. The standard Ministry methods are used. The sewers were treated and twenty takes recorded. The amount of sewer infestation appears to be small.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Fourteen premises are licensed to store petroleum and one to store cellulose. In every case the petroleum is stored in underground tanks. The total storage capacity is 30,610 gallons. No notices were served under these Acts, and no new premises were licensed.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books	1,497
Number of new houses erected during the year :	
(a) By the Local Authority	38
(b) By other bodies or persons	7
Number of houses demolished during the year	4
Number of persons displaced	7
Number of discretionary grant applications received during the year	7
Number of houses in which improvement works were completed during the year	10
Number of standard grant applications received during the year	5
Number of houses at which standard grant works were completed during the year	0

Housing Conditions.—The general housing conditions are fair, the houses being mostly small to medium sized of both parlour and non-parlour type. There is a considerable proportion of old property in the district, some of which has been scheduled for demolition, whilst the remainder is suitable for improvement. Some advantage has been taken of facilities offered by the Council to improve property by means of Improvement Grants, and it is hoped that more people will avail themselves of the new Standard Grant.

Although many of the old houses are of poor external appearance, they are mainly well kept and the internal condition is good. In the main tenants show great pride in their houses.

Suitable accommodation for old persons is still required but the Council are now contemplating a scheme for dealing with same. The Council are not at present contemplating building any houses for general need, as the withdrawal of Government subsidies means that rents would be too high.

There are still a good number of applicants for Council Houses but very few are really bad cases and it is hoped that the worst cases will be dealt with by normal turn over of existing houses.

The Council continued their slum clearance programme during 1959, and the 38 new dwellings were erected and occupied during the year.

The number of private houses being erected continues to be very small, although there are now indications of what could prove to be some substantial building during the next few years.

Many houses are still sub-standard but where it is felt that the houses could be improved landlords and owner-occupiers are encouraged to apply for an improvement grant. The results of these are excellent and have made first-class houses. There are still many houses suitable for improvement and it is hoped that further advantage will be taken of this provision. Applicants are given full advice and help from the Department.

The Council have continued to give every opportunity to prospective buyers by operating the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts and by standing as guarantors for persons buying through Building Societies.

The Department is also responsible for the maintenance and cleansing of highways, supervision of new buildings, street lighting, parks, baths and recreation grounds. One private street was made up during the year, and it is likely there will be more in the future. Whilst these are not public health matters, the making-up of streets from dusty or muddy surfaces to properly paved streets must indirectly be a help to public health. The Department will endeavour to proceed with the making-up of all unmade streets as soon as the Council authorise same.

A growing problem in the Department is that of Housing Management. A further 38 properties were brought into occupation during the year, making a total of almost 300 houses to be managed. As the houses become older the repairs must increase and inspections, orders, accounts, etc., for these houses are responsible for occupying an ever increasing amount of my staff's time. Other work must thereby suffer, and one example of this is the delay in the preparation of this report.

STAFF

My thanks are expressed for the efficient service rendered by my staff—Mr. N. Swift, the Clerk in the Department, and Mr. B. D. Rogerson, the Pupil Public Health Inspector—and for the excellent and willing co-operation from other members of the staff, the Foreman, and all workmen.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. B. HALL.

